

Kingston School District: Benefiting from State and Federal Programs

EnergySmart School Close-Ups highlight schools and school districts that have found ways to use energy more wisely, lowering their energy bills and raising awareness of energy issues.

- ✓ Improving Existing Buildings
- ✓ Financing Building Improvements
- ☐ Operating and Maintaining Buildings
- ☐ Designing New Buildings
- ☐ Teaching and Learning
- ☐ Using Renewable Energy Technologies
- ☐ Using Alternately Fueled School Buses

The Kingston School District partnership joined Rebuild America in February 1998 in an effort to enhance its energy conservation program and help the district improve the energy efficiency of its educational facilities. The school district began its energy management program by hiring Energy Education Inc., a nationwide K-12 personnel training organization, and Bob Cunningham, Energy Manager, to train district staff in energy conservation. In the first 12 months, energy use was reduced by 1.03 million kWh.



Kingston's E.C. Crosby Elementary School gets new energy-efficient windows as part of the district's \$6.9 million energy savings campaign.

Finding the right resources

Rebuild America connected the Kingston School District with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in August 1999, resulting in the development of an additional \$6.9 million energy savings campaign to upgrade lighting, heating, and other systems throughout its schools. The campaign was designed, constructed, and financed through the NYPA Energy Services Program (ESP), as part of a legislative mandate to lower government and institutional energy use throughout the state. Implementing lighting retrofits, replacing four heating boilers, and installing computerized energy management systems and new windows helped transform the school district into a state-of-the-art model of energy efficiency.

Funding for this project came from several sources—including a \$1 million grant from the Petroleum Overcharge Restitution Fund and another \$50,000 grant through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The New York State Education Department will pay for approximately 57 percent of the project's costs, and the remaining \$2.4 million will be paid with energy savings generated over a 10-year period.





PROFILE:

Location:

Kingston, NY

District size:

*18 buildings totaling
1,226,000 square feet*

Energy project scope:

*Lighting retrofits, new
windows, heating boilers,
computerized energy
management systems*

Date completed:

December 31, 2000

Energy saved:

*1.03 million kWh
annually*

Dollars saved:

\$335,000 annually

Project funding:

*NYPA's Energy Services
Program, Petroleum
Overcharge Restitution
Fund, NYSEDA, NY
State Education Dept.*

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Investing in the future

The Kingston School District has made a commitment to taxpayers to control expenditures and relieve the burden on taxpayers through accrued savings. The project funding through NYPA's Energy Services Program made it possible for the district to avoid issuing bonds to finance its project, ensuring there would be no upfront cost to local taxpayers.

"Dollars saved now and in the decades to come will keep tax increases down and free up funds to plow back into educational programs," Schools Superintendent Arthur Stellar explains.

Kingston intends to use 50 percent of the energy savings to invest in educational programs; 25 percent will continue to fund the energy management programs and 25 percent will be used to keep taxes down.



*Bob Terwilliger, Head Skilled Mechanic,
and Bob Cunningham, Energy Manager,
inspect the newly installed Fulton Pulse
Boilers at Kingston's Miller Middle
School.*

Results

Energy conservation measures over the past three years have already resulted in a cost avoidance of \$865,700. "Continued energy conservation with the corresponding savings is part of this school district's legacy for the future," says Superintendent Stellar. Because of energy conservation, the district now has an additional \$379,000 (net savings directly attributable to this district's energy management program) to invest in education.

Cunningham states, "By partnering with Rebuild America, the district has been able to gather more free information about cutting-edge energy conservation measures." The partnership has given Cunningham an awareness of what is going on in other schools and the exciting possibilities for the future.



The EnergySmart Schools campaign is operated by Rebuild America, through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs.



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See the EnergySmart Schools Web site at:
www.eren.doe.gov/energysmartschools

Or call the Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (EREC)
at: 1-800-DOE-3732